IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims in the patent application as follows wherein newly added text is indicated with <u>underlining</u> and deleted text is marked with ~~strikethrough~~ or enclosed within [[double brackets]]:

1.   (Currently Amended) A method of producing a video signal at a set top box <u>used for outputting video programming to at least one viewer, said method</u> comprising:

receiving a first video signal at said set top box;

processing said first video signal to produce a first image stored in memory of said set top box<u>, said first image not intended to be displayed independently</u>;

receiving a second video signal at said set top box;

processing said second video signal to produce a second image stored in said memory of said set top box<u>, said second image not intended to be displayed independently</u>;

accessing a presentation description <u>comprising a set of instructions</u> that <u>define</u> ~~defines~~ a portion of said first image and that defines the manner in which said portion of said first image and a portion of said second image are combined, the manner in which the images are combined being selected from at least one of a plurality of manners of combinations, and the presentation description <u>instructions</u> also <u>defining</u> ~~including~~ a sequence of operations performed over time ~~being selected from at least one of a plurality of sequences~~;

combining said portion of said first image with said portion of second image in accordance with said presentation description to produce a combined image; and

<u>outputting</u> ~~displaying~~ said combined image <u>as said video signal as part of said video programming to said at least one viewer</u>.

2.   (Currently Amended) The method <u>as set forth in</u> [[of]] claim 1 wherein said step of combining further comprises:

applying a mask that defines said portion of said first image.

3.   (Currently Amended) The method <u>as set forth in</u> [[of]] claim 1 wherein said step of combining ~~said video signals~~ further comprises:

generating a logical combination of said portion of said first image and said portion of said second image.

4.   (Currently Amended) The method <u>as set forth in</u> [[of]] claim 1 wherein said step of combining ~~said video signals~~ further comprises:

generating a mathematical combination of said portion of said first image and said portion of said second image.

5.   (Currently Amended) The method <u>as set forth in</u> [[of]] claim 1 wherein said step of combining ~~said video signals~~ further comprises:

scaling said portion of said first image.

6.   (Currently Amended) The method <u>as set forth in</u> [[of]] claim 1 wherein said step of combining ~~said video signals~~ further comprises:

warping said portion of said first image.

7.   (Currently Amended) The method <u>as set forth in</u> [[of]] claim 1 wherein said step of accessing said presentation description further comprises:

<u>fetching</u> ~~accessing~~ said presentation description across a network.

8.   (Currently Amended) The method <u>as set forth in</u> [[of]] claim 1 wherein said step of accessing said presentation description further comprises:

receiving a network address at which <u>said</u> [[a]] presentation description can be accessed<u>;</u>
<u>fetching said presentation description from said network address.</u>

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9. (Currently Amended) The method as set forth in [[of]] claim 1 wherein said step of accessing said presentation description further comprises:

selecting said presentation description from a plurality of presentation descriptions contained in said first video signal.

10. (Currently Amended) The method as set forth in [[of]] claim 1, said method further comprising:

modifying said presentation description in response to a user input from said at least one viewer.

11. (Currently Amended) The method as set forth in [[of]] claim 1, said method further comprising:

processing said first video signal to produce first audio data stored in said memory of said set top box;

processing said second video signal to produce second audio data stored in said memory of said set top box;

accessing said [[a]] presentation description that describes the manner in which said first audio data and said second audio data are combined; and

combining said first audio data and said second audio data in accordance with said presentation description.

12. (Currently Amended) A method of producing displaying a sequence of combined images in a set top box used for outputting video programming to said at least one viewer, said method comprising:

receiving a first video signal at said set top box;

processing said first video signal to produce a first sequence of images stored in memory of said set top box, said first sequence of images not intended to be displayed independently;

receiving a second video signal at said set top box;

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processing said second video signal to produce a second sequence of images stored in

said memory of said set top box, said second sequence of images not intended to be

displayed independently;

accessing a presentation description comprising a set of instructions that define defines a

portion of said first sequence of images and that defines the manner in which said

portion of said first sequence of images and a portion of said second sequence of

images are combined, the manner in which the sequences of images are combined

being selected from at least one of a plurality of manners of combinations, and the

presentation description instructions also defining including a sequence of operations

performed over time being selected from at least one of a plurality of sequences;

combining said portion of said first sequence of images with said portion of said second

sequence of images in accordance with said presentation description to produce a

finalized sequence of combined images; and

outputting displaying said finalized sequence of combined images as a part of said video

programming to said at least one viewer.

13.   (Currently Amended) The method as set forth in [[of]] claim 12 wherein

said step of combining further comprises:

applying a mask specified in said presentation description that defines said portion of said

first sequence of images.

14.   (Currently Amended) The method as set forth in [[of]] claim 13 wherein

said step of applying a mask further comprises:

executing program code that modifies said mask to select a different portion of at least

one image of said first sequence of images.

15.   (Currently Amended) The method as set forth in [[of]] claim 12 wherein

said step of combining said video signals further comprises:

generating a mathematical combination of said portion of one image of said first

sequence of images and said portion of one image of said second sequence of images.

16.   (Currently Amended) The method <u>as set forth in</u> [[of]] claim 12 wherein said step of combining said video signals further comprises:

generating a logical combination of said portion of one image of said first sequence of images and said portion of one image of said second sequence of images.

17.   (Currently Amended) The method <u>as set forth in</u> [[of]] claim 12 wherein said step of combining said video signals further comprises:

scaling said portion of one image of said first sequence of images.

18.   (Currently Amended) The method <u>as set forth in</u> [[of]] claim 12 wherein said step of combining said video signals further comprises:

warping said portion of one image of said first sequence of images.

19.   (Currently Amended) The method <u>as set forth in</u> [[of]] claim 12<u>, said method</u> further comprising:

modifying said presentation description in response to a~~user~~ input <u>from said at least one viewer</u>.

20.   (Currently Amended) A method of controlling generation of a combined video signal <u>for use as video programming to at least one viewer</u> in a set top box unit at <u>said at least one viewer's</u> a~~user's~~ premises from a broadcast site<u>, said method</u> comprising:

transmitting a first digital video signal to said set top box<u>, said first digital video signal comprising a first image not intended to be displayed independently</u>;

transmitting a second digital video signal to said set top box substantially simultaneously with said first digital video signal<u>, said second digital video signal comprising a second image not intended to be displayed independently</u>;

loading image combination code into said set top box; and

providing a presentation description to said set top box<u>, said presentation description comprising a set of instructions</u> that <u>define</u> ~~describes~~ the manner in which a portion of

[[an]] <u>said first</u> image contained in said first digital video signal is combined with a portion of [[an]] <u>said second</u> image contained in said second digital video signal to produce said combined video signal <u>for use as video programming to at least one viewer</u> the manner in which the images are combined being selected from at least one of a plurality of manners of combinations, and the presentation description <u>instructions</u> also <u>defining</u> ~~including~~ a sequence of operations performed over time ~~being selected from at least one of a plurality of sequences~~.

21.   (Currently Amended) The method <u>as set forth in</u> [[of]] claim 20 wherein said step of providing a presentation description further comprises:

transmitting a network address that said set top box employs to access said presentation description.

22.   (Currently Amended) The method <u>as set forth in</u> [[of]] claim 20 wherein said step of providing a presentation description further comprises:

transmitting said presentation description to said set top box as a part of said first digital video signal.

23.   (Currently Amended) The method <u>as set forth in</u> [[of]] claim 20 wherein said step of providing a presentation description further comprises:

selecting said presentation description from a plurality of presentation descriptions wherein said presentation description conforms to the requirements of said set top box.

24.   (Currently Amended) The method <u>as set forth in</u> [[of]] claim 20 wherein said step of providing a presentation description further comprises:

altering a general presentation description to conform to the requirements of said set top box.

25.　　(Currently Amended) The method as set forth in [[of]] claim 20 wherein said step of providing a presentation description further comprises:

tailoring a general presentation description to correspond to a viewer preference.

26.　　(Currently Amended) The method as set forth in [[of]] claim 20 wherein said step of providing a presentation description further comprises:

transmitting a plurality of presentation descriptions to said set top box from which said

set top box selects one presentation description that conforms to the requirements of

said set top box.

27.　　(Currently Amended) A set top box system that produces a combined video signal for use as video programming to at least one viewer, said system comprising:

a processor;

a memory, said memory coupled to said processor;

a tuner/decoder that receives a first video signal and a second video signal substantially

simultaneously and that routes control information contained in said first video signal

to said processor and that routes first video data from said first video signal and

second video data from said second video signal to a video decoder;

said video decoder that decodes said first video data and produces a first video image in

said memory and that decodes said second video data and produces a second video

image in said memory, said first video image and said second video image not

intended to be displayed independently;

a presentation description stored in said memory, said presentation description

comprising a set of instructions that define specifies the manner in which a portion of

said first video image is combined with a portion of said second video image to

produce said combined video signal, the manner in which the images are combined

being selected from at least one of a plurality of manners of combinations, and the

presentation description instructions also defining including a sequence of operations

performed over time being selected from at least one of a plurality of sequences;

program code operating in said processor that employs said presentation description and

    that accesses said portion of said first video image and said portion of said second

    video image in said memory and that combines said first portion of said first video

    image and said portion of said second video image in the [[a]] manner specified by

    said presentation description to create said combined video signal; and

a video output unit that outputs said combined video signal to a display device as a part

    said video programming to said at least one viewer.

      28.   (Currently Amended) The system as set forth in [[of]] claim 27, said

system further comprising:

    a network interface that accesses a remote server to obtain said presentation description.

      29.   (Currently Amended) The system as set forth in [[of]] claim 27 wherein

said decoder further produces first audio data in said memory from said first video information

and produces second audio data in said memory from said second video information.

      30.   (Currently Amended) The system as set forth in [[of]] claim 29 wherein

said presentation description further specifies the manner in which said first audio data is

combined with said second audio data.

      31.   (Currently Amended) The system as set forth in [[of]] claim 27, said

system further comprising:

    a user interface that receives an input from said at least one viewer a user that modifies

    said presentation description.

      32.   (Currently Amended) The system as set forth in [[of]] claim 27, said

system further comprising:

    viewer user preference information from said at least one viewer stored in said memory

    that is used by said presentation description.

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33.   (Currently Amended) The system <u>as set forth in</u> [[of]] claim 27 wherein said program code operating in said processor further comprises:

a software routine that controls said decoder to perform at least part of the combination of said portion of said first video image and said portion of said second video image in a manner specified by said presentation description.

34.   (Currently Amended) The system <u>as set forth in</u> [[of]] claim 27 wherein said program code operating in said processor further comprises:

a software routine that selects said presentation from a plurality of presentation descriptions contained in said first video signal.

35.   (Currently Amended) A set top box that produces a combined video signal <u>for use as video programming, said set top box</u> comprising:

processor means that <u>processes</u> ~~process~~ a presentation description ~~and that control the manner in which images are combined~~;

memory means that store software executable by said processor means and that store video images;

tuner/decoder means that receive a first video signal and a second video signal and that route control information contained in said first video signal to said processor means and that route first video information from said first video signal and second video information from said second video signal to decoder means;

decoder means that decode said first video information and produce a first video image in said memory means and that decode said second video information and produce a second video image in said memory means<u>, said first video image and said second video image not intended to be displayed independently</u>;

presentation description means<u>, said presentation description means comprising a set of instructions</u> that specify the manner in which a portion of said first video image is combined with a portion of said second video image to produce a combined image, the manner in which the images are combined being selected from at least one of a plurality of manners of combinations, and the <u>instructions</u> ~~presentation description~~

also <u>defining</u> ~~including~~ a sequence of operations performed over time being ~~selected~~

~~from at least one of a plurality of sequences~~; and

video output means that output said combined image <u>as said combined video signal</u> to a

display device <u>as a part of said video programming to said at least one viewer</u>.